Export of Stones

†*49. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of different types of stones exported from different states;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amount of foreign exchange is earned annually through these exports;

(c) if so, the details of the foreign exchange being earned through such exports; and

(d) the State-wise details of exporting agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) State-wise details of exports of stones are not maintained. The quantum of export of different types of stones in the last three years is as under:

(Quantity in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Item Description	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr.-Sept. 2005)
1.	Granite and products	20.98	24.68	12.70
2.	Marble and products	1.96	2.06	0.97
3.	Slate stones	1.31	1.59	0.75
4.	Other stones and products	14.94	13.47	7.25
	TOTAL:	39.19	41.80	21.67

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Total exports of above items were US$ 757.5 million in 2003-04, US$ 768.7 million in 2004-05 and US$ 439.47 million during April to September, 2005.

(d) State-wise details are not maintained. The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), Kolkata, is the nodal agency for promotion of export of granite, marble and other natural stones. Several members of this Council based in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. are engaged in export of aforesaid types of stones.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.